

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1 - 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;

a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second system, wherein

the server is configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message from the first system to the second system,

said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack,

the system comprises another server configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol to transmit the message, wherein one of the servers is a first server via which the message is transmitted from a sender in the first system to the second system and the other server is a second server via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards a receiver in the second system,

the first server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, and to send the converted message to the second server, and

the second server is configured, in response to receiving the message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message to the receiver.

13 - 21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) A server comprising  
at least one processor; and  
at least one memory including computer program code;  
the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the server to perform at least one of the following:

convert, in response to receiving a message having a first structure for messaging service messages from sender in a first system and targeted to a receiver in a second system having a second structure for the messages, the message to have a structure according to a bearer independent protocol, and to send the converted message to a second server; via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards the receiver in the second system; and

convert, in response to receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol from the second server, the message originating from a sender in the second system and targeted to a receiver in the first system, the message to

have the first structure before forwarding the message to the receiver; and forwarding the converted message to the receiver in the first system,

wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

23. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a message having a first structure for messaging service messages from sender in a first system and targeted to a receiver in a second system having a second structure for the messages;

converting the message having the first structure to have a structure according to a bearer independent protocol;

sending the converted message having the structure according to the bearer independent protocol to a second server; via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards the receiver in the second system;

receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol from the second server, the message originating from a sender in the second system and targeted to a receiver in the first system;

converting the message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol to have the first structure; and

forwarding the converted message having the first structure to the receiver in the first system,

wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.